

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

January 24, 2013

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MoDOT Launches "On The Move" Website

Last week MoDOT launched a new website to support "On The Move", the statewide initiative to update our long-term transportation plan.

The website supports the initiative by allowing visitors to learn about the assets of Missouri's transportation system, track what MoDOT is hearing from Missourians during upcoming listening sessions and mobile tours, and offer comments.

Visit the website for all the details and listening sessions schedule On The Move.



Changes to Eye / Face Protection

Since the implementation of MoDOT's Head and Eye/Face Protection Policy last year, employees have had questions and concerns about certain aspects of the policy. Chief Engineer Dave Nichols recently met with the statewide EAC to learn more about those specific concerns, and directed some modifications be made. Those changes are:

- Modified the policy to better define within the policy language where there are exceptions to the Head and Eye/Face Protection requirements.
- Modified the Frequently Asked Questions section to better define when Head and Eye/Face Protection is required in enclosed cabs, particularly in motorgraders, loaders, truck cabs and tractor cabs.

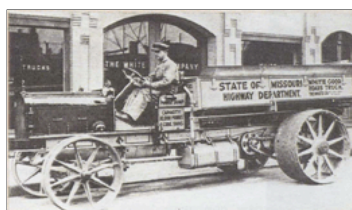
One area of particular concern was the requirement to wear Head and Eye/Face Protection while flagging. After reviewing this concern it is an area where no modifications were made to the policy. Head and Eye/Face Protection will continue to be required during flagging operations.

Frequently Asked Questions document has been updated to note the changes and provide other clarifications. [FAQ](#)

**SAFETY
BEGINS
WITH YOU**

100 Years of MoDOT

by Holly Dentner



An early highway department truck with iron tires.

Think back 100 years. Woodrow Wilson is president. There are only 48 states in the USA. The Indianapolis 500 is running just its third race in the history of the series. In another year, World War I will begin. And closer to home? The Missouri General Assembly officially creates the state highway department, through an act passed on March 22, 1913.

That means 2013 is a year for celebration. It's time to honor the centennial and celebrate MoDOT's progress and service to Missourians over the last 100 years. There have been great successes and great challenges in MoDOT's history, and it's important to recognize our achievements.

Starting in March, MoDOT will kick off a centennial celebration for employees and our customers. Stay tuned for information about the events and activities being organized as part of the celebration, including:

- A news conference to announce the centennial to the public
- Anniversary receptions for employees
- A new web page cataloging historical information about the department
- A special anniversary MoDOT logo
- A historical display at the Missouri State Fair



This map, from 1918, is considered the first official state highway map. More historic maps, dating from 1926 to the present, are available at www.modot.org/historicmaps.

Safety Program Expanded

Missouri Safe and Sober program will now be offered to students statewide thanks to help from a MoDOT Highway Safety grant.

Aimed at keeping student's drug and alcohol free, this three part programs goal is to create a culture of change. Missouri Safe and Sober educates teens on the dangers of drugs and alcohol and encourages them to lead a safe and sober lifestyle.

Videos, a new website, simulations and demonstrations on the risks of teen drinking, and information for parents on talking to their teens about alcohol are included in the program.

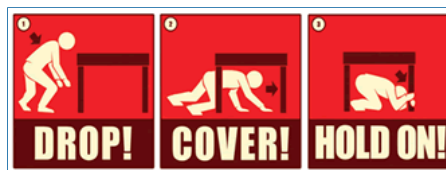
Safe and Sober was founded in 2004 by Springfield-based attorney Kurt Larson as Safe and Sober Prom Night. Since its inception, the program has reached more than 47,500 students in southwest Missouri, and now will be offered statewide.



Program founder Kurt Larson unveils the expanded program that can now be used statewide. Click above to see video.

For more information on the program, visit missourisafeandsober.com.

What's Happening

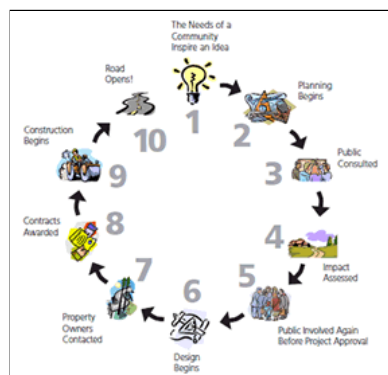


Great US ShakeOut Earthquake Drill Employees Encouraged to Participate

MoDOT will conduct an earthquake drill on Feb. 7 at 10:15 a.m. The Great ShakeOut earthquake drill helps people at work, home and school improve preparedness and practice how to be safe during earthquakes.

An email will be sent to all users just prior to the drill to advise an earthquake is occurring and other notifications will be made as needed. A notification will be made by MoDOT radio for field employees. At that time, all employees are asked to practice the skills **Drop, Cover and Hold On**. Please review the flier for all the details on what actions should be taken during an earthquake no matter where you are located at the time. *ShakeOut (this link works for employees only)*

For questions, contact your district or division emergency coordinator or Rick Bennett, traffic liaison engineer - Richard.Bennett@modot.mo.gov.



Meet MoDOT

The Meet MoDOT booklet has been updated and downsized into a convenient one page flyer. The flier gives the top facts about MoDOT and can be used to help educate all customers from the typical motorist to members of the legislature.

It's not a bad read for employees either, plenty of interesting tidbits about the organization you work for. For instance, did you know the cost to resurface a major highway is \$520,000 per lane mile? (Not including shoulders. Includes pavement, traffic control, permanent pavement marking, rumble strips, pavement repair, guardrail and signage).

Copies can be download at [Meet MoDOT \(this link works for employees only\)](#).



Another Winner!

December's Safety Jackpot winner was NW district's Gallatin maintenance building. Homer Rainey (left), senior maintenance worker with the Gallatin maintenance building, did the drawing for the crew.

Rainey pulled \$750.00 worth of winning tickets in this month's grab bag. Check out more about this latest winner on the district's Connections page - NW District Page.

W-2 Forms

State employees can view and retrieve their W-2 forms online using the State of Missouri Employees' Self-Service web portal (ESS).

While MoDOT will still provide employees with an official W-2, using ESS for quicker access is a great option. 2012 W-2's will be available on the site as early as Jan. 25.

W-2's for MoDOT employees should be mailed around Jan. 28 - W2's.

January Retirements

Jackie Clapham - NW - 28 years
Jimmy Watts - NW - 19 years
Rick Kemerling - NW - 30 years
Lee Silas - KC - 29 years
Darren Barker - KC - 29 years
Jeffrey Bailey - KC - 37 years
Darrell Daugherty - KC - 34 years
Ronald Tucker - KC - 32 years

Gary Twenter - CD - 28 years
Marlin Gessling - CD - 27 years
James Bodart - SL - 34 years
Daniel Friel - SL - 13 years
Douglas Jackson - SW - 29 years
Stephen Barnard - SW - 13 years
Robert King - SW - 31 years
Jerry Steffens - SW - 30 years

Ronald Kitsmiller - SW - 33 years
Jerry Van Wyk - SW - 28 years
Kenneth Reding - SW - 22 years
Lisa Kenley - SE - 17 years
Henry Berry - SE - 29 years
Michael Barton - SE - 23 years
Barbara Hague - CO - 43 years
Connie Stottlemire - CO - 12 years

In Memorium

John McClendon
former D9 - December 22
Barney Douglas
former D9 - December 22
Frank Buban
former D2 - December 25
Homer Dennison
former D7 - December 28
Neal McGinnis Jr.
former D8 - December 30
Eugene Bartels
former D1 - December 30

Wayne Bradshaw
former D8 - January 2
Donald Hunt
former D2 - January 2
Wayne Stephenson
former D9 - January 3
Floyd Turner
former D5 - January 5
Cash Clay
former D6 - January 7
Ralph Williams
former D10 - January 10

Harold Head
former D2 - January 10
George Toms
former D4 - January 14
Ova Barton
CO - January 15
Forest Peterson
former D3 - January 15
Larry Campbell
former D1 - January 15

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Customer Relations - MoDOT
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Editor: Tammy Wallace

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Cold Weather Survival

January is the coldest month in Missouri, and prolonged exposure to low temperatures, wind and moisture can result in frostbite and hypothermia. Here are some suggestions on how to keep warm and avoid winter dangers:

- Wear several layers of clothing - choose a coat with wind and waterproof layers.
- Wear a hat, scarf and turtleneck sweater - the head and neck lose heat faster than any other part of the body, and cheeks, ears and nose are the most prone to frostbite.

Frostbite - What to Look For

- The extent of frostbite is difficult to judge until hours later.
- Superficial frostbite is characterized by white, waxy or grayish-yellow patches on the affected areas. The skin feels cold and numb. The skin surface feels stiff and tissue feels soft when depressed.
- Deep frostbite is characterized by waxy and pale skin. The affected parts feel cold, hard, and solid and cannot be depressed. Large blisters may appear after re-warming.



What to Do

- Get the victim out of the cold and to a warm place immediately.
- Remove any constrictive clothing items and jewelry that could impair circulation.
- Seek medical attention immediately.

Hypothermia - What to Look For

- Hypothermia occurs when the body loses more heat than it produces.
- Symptoms include a change in mental status, uncontrollable shivering, a cool abdomen and a low core body temperature.
- Severe hypothermia may cause rigid muscles, dark and puffy skin, irregular heartbeat and respiration, and unconsciousness.

What to Do

- Get the victim out of the cold.
- Lay the victim flat and add insulation such as blankets, pillows, towels or newspapers beneath and around the victim.
- Seek medical attention immediately.

Be Prepared

- Hypothermia and frostbite happen most frequently when you aren't prepared.
- Protect yourself with the proper clothing and take breaks in a warm environment.

Amtrak Winter Deals

**Save 20% When You Take
Amtrak Missouri River Runner**

**'Tis the Season
for a Winter Getaway**

Save now on travel through March 30 when you book online at Amtrak.com. Click on the Deals tab for the Missouri River Runner discount offer.

Online reservations are required one day in advance. Black out dates and certain restrictions apply. Learn more by calling 1-800-USA-RAIL or visit Amtrak.com.

Sponsoring Agency: Amtrak/MoDOT
Kansas City • Independence • Lee's Summit • Warrensburg • Sedalia
Jefferson City • Hannibal • Washington • Kirkwood • St. Louis



Amtrak is offering 20 percent discounts again this winter on it's popular Missouri River Runner, so book now and save big.

Locations include Kansas City, Independence, Lee's Summit, Warrensburg, Sedalia, Jefferson City, Herman, Washington, Kirkwood and St. Louis.

Online reservations are required one day in advance. Blackout dates and certain restrictions apply.

Learn more by calling 1-800-USA-RAIL or visiting the website.

Discounts good through March 30 when booking online at Amtrak.com.

What's Happening at Central Office



State Employees Blood Drive

Friday, Jan. 25 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral Undercroft

Tuesday, Jan. 29 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Truman Building 4th floor auditorium

Papa John's Pizza and Culvers Frozen Custard will be provided to all presenting donors in the canteen while it lasts. Lets help save lives!

Make an appointment by visiting www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: MoState

Why You Should Donate Blood

Your blood donation can make a significant impact in someone's life. Blood is needed for many different reasons. Your donation could be used for the little girl with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, a new mother suffering complications from child birth or a friend involved in a car accident. A supply shortage means that blood may not be available when it's needed most. One donation can help save up to three lives because your blood is separated into its components – red cells, plasma and platelets – to treat patients with different needs.



Openings for CPR and PowerLift Training

There are a few remaining slots for the CPR and PowerLift Training Classes. CPR - 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; PowerLift - 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Training Room B at HRED

To register for either class contact Danielle Thomas at Danielle.Thomas@modot.mo.gov.

Tuesday, Jan. 29 (PowerLift slots available)
Thursday, Jan. 31 (three openings for CPR; PowerLift slots available)

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Red Light Running Cameras Added in St. Joseph



Motorists in St. Joseph may be watching more carefully when they drive through city intersections or they may receive a ticket for running a red light, thanks to new red-light cameras recently installed by the city. This is the first time St. Joseph has tried the cameras, which went online Friday, Jan. 18, for a 30-day warning period. After the warning period, anyone caught by a camera running a red light will face a \$100 fine.

MoDOT approved the use of the cameras that will operate 24-hours a day at two intersections: the Belt Highway and Frederick, and the Belt Highway and Cook Road. The department also installed the "Photo-Enforced" signs to warn motorists of the cameras at each of the monitored intersection approaches.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, red-light running is a leading cause of urban traffic crashes in the country. Research shows red light cameras reduce not only fatal red light running crashes, but other types of fatal intersection crashes as well.

Safety Jackpot Winner in Northwest District

Although the Safety Jackpot program has been in place for a while, the Northwest District had not had a 'bag grab' winner, until now. Out of the thousands of cards submitted for the month of December, the one with Senior Maintenance Worker Homer Rainey's name on it was chosen. On Jan. 11 the Northwest Prize Patrol set out for the Gallatin Maintenance building to surprise Rainey over his lunch break. David Welch from the Safety Jackpot program met Don Wichern, Tony McGaughy, Marty Liles and Diane Sipes at the building, where the crew was ending their lunch and the big announcement was made. Rainey opened two of the 25 bank bags Welch had brought, revealing his \$750 prize.

But that's not the end of the story. The crew at Gallatin had not entered as individuals. As each person got a Safety Jackpot card, it was contributed to a pool. Then Rainey sent all the cards in. So while Rainey got to draw the bags, the whole Gallatin building will share in the winnings. As Maintenance Supervisor Derrick Gott said, "We earned it together, so we'll use it together."

How will the building spend their winnings? That hasn't been fully decided at press time, but a portion will go in the building's "Pop Fund" for their Christmas dinner and a spring barbecue is being planned, as well. Congratulations, Gallatin Maintenance!



Safety Jackpot Representative David Welch congratulates the Northwest District's first Safety Jackpot winner, Homer Rainey.



The crew at the Gallatin Maintenance building will share the Safety Jackpot winnings.

Safer and Smoother in 2012

Across the 20 counties in Northwest Missouri, motorists encountered plenty of road and bridge closed signs, saw lots of work zone green and orange and drove by many flaggers and barrels over the past year.

"We are proud of the work we have done this past year with a significantly decreased budget," said Don Wichern, MoDOT Northwest District Engineer. "We are committed to doing everything we can with the budget we have but it's getting increasingly difficult."

Overall, a lot of time, effort and approximately \$82.6 million funds were spent on the following projects over the past year that made a significant impact in our area:

Trooper Guthrie Recovery



MoDOT employees were proud to help assist the Missouri State Highway Patrol in the recovery of Trooper Fred Guthrie on Jan. 12.

U.S. Hwy 136 Brownville Bridge



A paint and rehabilitation project in Atchison County that began in 2009 was finished in 2012. Total cost: \$8.7 million.

Safe and Sound Complete



The Safe and Sound program in Northwest Missouri was completed with the Route 11 Bridge over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad in Chariton County, making it the 35th bridge of 2012, the 190th bridge over the span of the program in the Northwest District and the final Safe and Sound bridge in the state.

New Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge



The completion of the new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge on U.S. Hwy 59 in Buchanan County over the Missouri River, in partnership with KDOT was a \$59.4 million project, with MoDOT paying approximately half of the cost.

Flood Recovery Projects



The flood is finally over in Northwest Missouri with the completion of several recovery projects from the summer 2011 flood in Atchison, Holt, and Buchanan counties. Cost: \$18 million.

New Rock Port Welcome Center



Atchison County received a brand new Welcome Center on Interstate 29 in Rock Port for \$5 million.

Overlays on Minor Routes

Asphalt Overlays



Nearly 140 miles of minor routes received new road treatments ranging from chip seals to thin lift overlays in Andrew, Clinton, Gentry, Harrison, Mercer and Nodaway counties in 2012 at a cost of about \$5.9 million.



Contractors improved road surfaces in Andrew County on U.S. Hwy 71 for \$3.2 million, in Buchanan/DeKalb counties on U.S. Hwy 36 WB for \$2.2 million, and the above project in Buchanan County on Interstate 29 for \$2.9 million, for a total of \$8.3 million.

U.S. Hwy 169



Much anticipated and appreciated by local residents, this project in Worth and Gentry counties provided new paved shoulders and edge line rumble strips for \$4.1 million.

U.S. Hwy 45 & U.S. Hwy 59



These routes in Buchanan and Platte counties received an overlay and intersection modification at a cost of \$2.2 million.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Future Facelift for MO 79

by Tana Akright



Last fall Hannibal and Palmyra maintenance crews worked replacing sections of concrete in preparation for the new concrete overlay and shoulder improvements.

This summer, all eyes will be on MO 79 south of Hannibal because it is getting a long overdue facelift, a new concrete overlay and asphalt shoulders along the mighty Mississippi River from Route T in Hannibal south to Route E near Saverton. This is a favorite route for tourists, cyclists and runners because of its scenery.

Not your everyday resurfacing project, the mainline lanes will be resurfaced with 5 ¾ inch thick concrete which should require less maintenance.

"The concrete overlay should have a longer life span since it has a greater load carrying capacity compared to asphalt," explained Brian Haeffner, MoDOT Area Engineer. "In addition, the shoulders and railroad crossing will be improved," he added.

During construction, MO 79 will be closed after Independence Day for approximately two weeks in order to complete the work.

"Due to the size of the paving machines, curing time for the concrete and the ability to work more efficiently without having to deal with traffic control, the road will be closed letting us complete the project in less than a month compared to several months," said Haeffner.

MoDOT and its contractor will host a public meeting prior to the project to share information about the construction and traffic control for local residents. Maps of the proposed detours will be on display at the meeting.

Drilling for Information

by Tana Akright

The MoDOT Construction and Materials geotechnical drilling crew recently started gathering critical soil information for the design of the new MO 19 railroad overpass near New Florence. In recent weeks, the drilling crews took advantage of the decent early January temperatures to conduct borings at the site in areas where the new overpass could be located and other critical information relevant to the design. Local landowners were very willing to allow crews access to the project area, because they are excited about the improvement.

Lydia Brownell, senior geotechnical specialist, said this work will provide information which helps with the design of the new overpass and narrows down the final location. "Every 100 to 200 feet we drill a boring and take samples of soil or rock to provide a profile of sub-surface conditions along the length of a project," explained Lydia. "This gives us information which is critical in the design and construction of the bridge and roadway," said Chris Knapp, transportation project manager for MoDOT's Northeast District. "Having this information up front allows us to choose the best possible alignments based on existing soil conditions; without it we sometimes cannot determine practical locations to propose in our public meetings," he continued.

The project scheduled for construction in 2015 will include realignment of the existing roadway, and construction of the new overpass will eliminate the existing low-clearance Norfolk Southern Railway bridge built in 1934. The current underpass for vehicles has a height clearance of 13' 8" and a width opening of 30'. The average daily traffic along this portion of MO 19 is over 5,000 vehicles, over 20 percent of which is truck traffic.

The Greater Montgomery County Economic Development Council partnered with Boonslick Regional Planning Commission to secure \$2.25 million in Community Development Block Grant funding for the \$6 million project; MoDOT's share is around \$3.75 million. "MO 19 is an important link for I-70 travelers wanting to access the Montgomery County area and recreational areas near Mark Twain Lake," said MoDOT Area Engineer, Erik Maninga. "The overpass needs to be replaced due to its height and width restrictions to accommodate economic development in the area. It has been great working with Boonslick Regional Planning Commission to partner on this project."



(Left) Crews drill into the soil for samples of the earth near the potential future site of the MO 19 railroad overpass at New Florence. (Right) The old railroad overpass on MO 19 as it currently stands.

E is for Education and Everyone

by Marisa Christy-Kerns

The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety's Education sub-committee is in full force after the reorganization of the Coalition last year. Co-chaired by Tana Akright and Marisa Christy-Kerns, the committee has hit the ground running within the last few months reaching out to additional partners within our region to help get roadway safety messages out to our surrounding communities. The group takes advantage of attending local community events to spread the message about roadway safety.

With three outreach coordinators on board (Cyndy Bliem-Sharp - North area, Stephen Bogue - Central area, Kim Biondo - South area), the committee is making great strides in encouraging school involvement in seat belt and safety programs, such as Battle of the Belt and Missouri Safe and Sober. The committee is also seeking opportunities to provide driver's education scholarships to area schools.

Not only does education touch young drivers, but older ones as well. In the coming months, the coalition plans to sponsor two AARP Older Driver Education Classes. The complete plan for the NE Coalition is found online at savemolives.com



NE Coalition for Roadway Safety participated in the Family-A-Fair event held at Moberly Area Community College on Jan. 18-19. Individuals of all ages stopped at the booth to talk about safety. Pam Mettes, Macon maintenance, is pictured above visiting with individuals about the information that was available. Other individuals that helped at the event were Judy Rushton from the Macon County Health Department, Amy Crawford, MoDOT area engineer, and Marisa Christy-Kerns, MoDOT CR specialist.

For more info

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Chilly Opening for Route 13 East Loop

by Steve Porter

After four years and two construction projects, the 12-mile-long Route 13 East Loop around Warrensburg is now open from south of Warrensburg to just north of Routes V and OO.

Elected officials, members of the Missouri Highway 13 Corridor Coalition and MoDOT gathered in the cold Monday, Jan. 14 to cut the ribbon and celebrate the opening of the final five mile segment north of Route 50. Celebrants didn't linger for speeches, however. Instead, the celebration moved to the much warmer White Rose Pavilion in Warrensburg for the remainder of the event. Emery Sapp & Sons opened the last leg of the East Loop eight months ahead of schedule.

The \$10.1 million project concludes work started in 2009 to shift Route 13 through traffic away from the congested center of Warrensburg. The East Loop moves through traffic away from neighborhoods and University of Central Missouri campus, making the community safer.

Construction of the final segment began last March. MoDOT built the two-lane roadway within the right of way for a future four-lane highway. By building what is needed now, yet planning carefully for future development, MoDOT is getting the best value for every tax dollar spent.



Snow on the shoulders of the new Route 13 East Loop lingers Monday morning, a chilly backdrop to the ribbon cutting for the new five-mile segment in Warrensburg. Photo by Steve Porter

Local Project Wins Paving Award

Story and Photo by Kerri Lewis



MoDOT, the City of Kansas City, and contractor Ideker, Inc. has received regional recognition for the recently completed Tiffany Springs Parkway Improvement project in Clay County, winning the Missouri/Kansas Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association's (ACPA) Award for the Municipal Streets and Intersections (>30,000 SY) category. This project will be recognized in February during the 33rd Annual MO/KS Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) Paving Conference as the best PCC pavement constructed in this category in 2012 for the state of Missouri.

This project replaced an at-grade, signalized intersection with a fully functional diamond interchange at Route 169 and 96th Street/ Tiffany Springs Parkway; and widened arterial roadways in the project area to improve traffic safety, provide better access, and accommodate economic development.

Route 45 Widening Project Celebrates with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

by Kerri Lewis

Nearly 60 people stopped by a ribbon cutting ceremony on Jan. 10 to celebrate completion of safety and capacity improvements on Route 45 between Routes 9 and K in Parkville. State, county and city officials, and community members joined MoDOT to cut the blue ribbon at the Deuce Clubhouse at the National Golf Club in Parkville.

This highly anticipated \$16 million project completes more than three miles of new lanes on Route 45. However, these improvements are more than an additional driving lane in each direction; new lanes allow motorists to reach their destination quicker and safer while encouraging economic growth in the thriving area.



MoDOT, state, city and county officials cut the ribbon to celebrate completed enhancements to Route 45 in Parkville. The new lanes of Route 45, seen in the background, offer two driving lanes in each direction with turn lanes to allow motorists a safer drive in the area. Photo by Kerri Lewis

In addition to these needed enhancements, a shared-use path was built to accommodate other forms of non-motorized transportation. This creates a safe route for pedestrians and bicyclists to enjoy the community.

This project precedes a new project to complete widening Route 45 from Route K to I-435 in the near future. Route 45 is a vital link in the Northland, connecting I-435 to I-29 and carries more than 18,000 vehicles per day. By the year 2030, that number is expected to increase to 53,000.

Winter is for Pothole Patching, Picking Up Litter

by Steve Porter

You might call it the cycle of maintenance life. Snowfights, followed by pothole patching and litter pick up keep MoDOT's maintenance team just as busy in winter as mowing does in the late spring and summer.

This year is no different, says District Maintenance Engineer Jesse Skinner. "Our crews have been working throughout the district to patch where we can and pick up as much trash as possible between these snowstorms," Skinner said. Three snowstorms, beginning less than a week before Christmas and coming about every 10 days or so, have kept maintenance workers from taking a strong run at roadside cleanup. That battle will continue throughout the winter into early spring.

Pothole patching is a high priority – especially when there's moisture in the pavement from recent storms and the temperatures create the freeze-thaw cycle that produces overnight potholes. Motorists notice, and so do the media outlets. Several television news stories about potholes and roadside cleanup aired in mid-January, between the New Year's Eve storm and the Jan. 12 storm.

Maintenance crews in the rural area are replacing culverts, particularly on supplementary routes that are scheduled for resurfacing this summer.

The addition of dozens of new maintenance workers also adds to the effort and gives the new employees a crash course in the skills necessary to perform multiple tasks that will change from day to day.

"We are so grateful to have the added help, just in time for a busy winter," Skinner said. "Our new employees are finding that the work is hard at times and never seems to end, but they also see how much the public appreciates what we can do when the need is urgent."

The maintenance team got a breather last weekend, when temperatures climbed above 60 degrees, but it's January, and the cold has returned with a weekend forecast for moisture and the promise that plowing and pothole patching are again on our doorstep.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Jan. 17 Commission Meeting Held in Columbia

The importance of partnerships in delivering transportation projects was the topic of District Engineer Dave Silvester's presentation to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission when it met in Columbia on Jan. 17.

Dave highlighted projects in the Central District that were the result of partnering with other entities, specifically the US 63/Route H interchange near Columbia, the Route 179/Mission Drive interchange in Jefferson City and the US 54 pedestrian bridge in Camdenton. He also discussed upcoming partnership projects such as Routes 740 and Z in Boone County and the Callaway County Connector.

Dave also reported there are three new cost-share projects totaling \$1.9 million in the works in the southern part of the district: widening Route 28 to three lanes within the City of Owensville, rebuilding Route J to a more standard roadway template and adding multiple turn lanes at the Route V / I-44 interchange near Rolla.

"Partnerships come in all shapes and sizes and are not always related to projects, but still improve our transportation system," Dave told the commission.



Senior Information Systems Technologist Al Rhorer (center) celebrated his birthday while working the computer setup at the Jan. 17 commission meeting in Columbia. Staff with the Commission Secretary's Office caught wind of this news and presented Al with a birthday cupcake. Al's pictured here with District Engineer Dave Silvester and Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner.



Assistant Central District Engineer Travis Koestner goes over the Jan. 17 commission meeting agenda with Chris Moore and Ansley Sims of the Columbia maintenance facility. Moore and Sims both received their CDLs through MoDOT's partnership with Job Point and were recognized at the meeting. Chris is a full-time maintenance worker, and Ansley is a seasonal maintenance worker.

As an example, he cited the CDL training we provide through our partnership with Job Point and introduced two individuals we've hired as a result: Chris Moore, a full-time maintenance worker, and Ansley Sims, a seasonal maintenance worker. Both work at the Columbia maintenance facility.

Other guests included Garrett Lynch who partnered with MoDOT to erect a flagpole near the Lake of the Ozarks welcome sign as part of his Eagle Scout project. Garrett was accompanied by his mom, Regina, and his dad, Area Engineer Bob Lynch.

Commission Chairman Rudy Farber said he appreciated Dave's presentation because it emphasized the need for partnering to help us solve our funding situation.

The Central District will host two additional commission meetings in 2013 - May 1 in Jefferson City and July 10 in Rolla.

Pavement Association Recognizes Route C Project

A chip-seal improvement project on Route C in Washington County has been named one of the top improvement projects of 2012 by the Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association.

The project's contractor, Missouri Petroleum of St. Louis, was awarded the first place honor in the Excellence in Maintenance category during the association's annual conference held recently in Columbia.

"We were pleased to partner with Missouri Petroleum on this project and were very proud of the results," said Construction and Materials Engineer Patty Lemongelli. "Projects such as this highlight MoDOT's commitment to hiring quality contractors who provide excellent highway improvements for Missouri taxpayers."

In issuing the award, MAPA described the finished seal coat project as representative of the highest degree of construction knowledge and performance resulting in a uniform roadway with a life-span significantly extended by the chip seal.



Donnie Payne, Senior Construction Inspector, and Westly McPeters, Senior Construction Technician, both of the Rolla Project Office, display the plaque from the Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association recognizing a chip-seal improvement project on Route C in Washington County as one of the top improvement projects of 2012.

First "On The Move" Listening Session to be Held in Columbia



The first "On The Move" listening session will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Feb. 5 at the Reynolds Alumni Center on the campus of the University of Missouri in Columbia. The event kicks off a series of listening sessions to be held across the state over the next three months.

On the Move is MoDOT's statewide engagement effort to get direction on transportation priorities across the state. Missourians will have the chance to provide their input on the future of transportation through the listening sessions, a mobile tour and virtual forums, as well as through the On The Move website located at www.missourionthemove.org.

The Central District will host a second listening session on March 19 in Lebanon.

Callaway County Connector Proposal Draws a Crowd

More than 180 people turned out at the Callaway County Public Library on Jan. 15 to view and discuss plans for possible transportation improvements in southeastern Callaway County. Interested parties were given the chance to comment on the Callaway County Connector environmental assessment document, which includes recommendations to construct a new roadway starting at Route 54 just south of Fulton and extending to the southeast. The project would also include improvements to portions of Routes O and AD and County Road 428, and construction of a new crossing over Auxvasse Creek. The proposal is still in the planning stages.



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Meet St. Louis "On The Move" Ambassadors

by Kara Price



MoDOT's statewide "On The Move" initiative is to engage Missourians to find solutions to meet Missouri's transportation needs. MoDOT leadership encourages employees and retirees to tell your family and friends about this important initiative and encourage them to be involved as we partner with Missourians to build a strong vision for our state.

Employees are encouraged to learn more about "On The Move" by visiting www.missourionthemove.org.

There are many ambassadors for "On The Move" within the St. Louis district. If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to contact one of the following ambassadors who would be happy to help you.

Ed Hassinger	Tom Blair	Bill Schnell	Mollie LeBlanc	Marie Elliott	Greg Horn
Karen Yeomans	Becky Allmeroth	Wesley Stephens	Jeanne Olubogun	Ron Morris	Randy Hitt
Tom Evers	Larry Welty	Deanna Venker	Judy Wagner	Michelle Voegele	Angela Fuerst
Linda Wilson Horn	Kara Price	Andrew Gates	Shirlyn Myles		

MoDOT Enhances DBE Program through Disparity Study

by Shirlyn Myles

MoDOT recently begin the first of many public meetings to report the statewide Availability and Disparity Study results and recommendations to the St. Louis region.

Lester Woods, Director of External Civil Rights Division and Ed Hassinger St. Louis District engineer spoke briefly to approximately 75 individuals in attendance about how the study affects the region. The public meeting was held last week on St. Louis Community College's Florissant Valley Campus.

MoDOT commissioned this study to evaluate whether minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises in MoDOT's market area have full and fair opportunities to compete for its prime contracts and associated subcontracts, and those of its federal-aid recipients.

In the study, NERA Economic Consulting examined \$4.126 billion worth of prime contracts and subcontracts awarded by MoDOT during 2005 to 2009. In NERA's recommendations, it suggested that MoDOT adopt a Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) program for state-funded contracts and adopt the federal DBE annual goal. This would help enhance the DBE efforts.

The NERA Recommendations can be reviewed at:

www.modot.org/ecr/documents/NERAMoDOTDisparityStudyRecommendationsDRAFT.pdf

For more details on the Disparity Study, visit: www.modot.org/ecr/documents/NERAMoDOTDisparityStudyFinal3.pdf

Pictured: Members of the D/M/WBEs, prime contractors and transportation agencies participated in listening to the first public meeting for the Disparity Study.



New "STL Get Fit" Team Focused on Improving Your Health and Wellness

by Kara Price

The St. Louis district welcomes its new "STL Get Fit" team, which began in the new year with a mission of getting MoDOT employees to focus on their health. This team will explore various programs and offers it can provide employees to help keep them and their families HEALTHY and FIT during their busy work week and personal time.

"We initiated this new team this year after numerous requests from employees to look at helping our district employees with health related topics and programs," said Lisa Lamons, St. Louis district safety and health manager.

Representatives on the "STL Get Fit" team will be continuously researching and scoping out various programs to provide to employees, which include:

- "Lunch and Learn" sessions with various health topics.
- Contests to get in shape, stay fit-healthy eating and/or weight loss programs.
- Securing discount rates at various fitness programs, grocery stores, vitamin shops and fitness clothing retail stores.
- Coordinating internal health related programs located within the district.
- Developing a Sharepoint location under Risk Management that will house useful health related information.

If you are interested in becoming part of this team, please obtain permission from your supervisor and contact Lisa Lamons at 314-453-5012 or Lisa.Lamons@modot.mo.gov.

Lamons added, "2013 is the year to improve your health and well-being, whether it's getting in shape, eating healthier or becoming more informed about health related topics!"

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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PUTTING UP A NEW STOP SIGN at Route 112 and County Road 2192 near Cassville are Maintenance Worker Joe Gundel, left, and Senior Maintenance Worker Richard Munoz of Cassville Maintenance. (Photo by Bob Edwards)



GOING THROUGH SHAREPOINT TRAINING in the Southwest District office are Senior Customer Service Representative Becky Walsh, left, and Human Resources Manager Steve Hermann. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

Six Southwest District Inventions Headed To Statewide Tool & Equipment Challenge

by Angela Eden

The number and quality of entries in the Southwest District Tool and Equipment Challenge were impressive, said Maintenance Superintendent Travis Jones, coordinator for the Jan. 9 event.

"It was the best one (showcase) we've ever had," Jones said.

Crews submitted 35 entries to the district contest -- at least one from each maintenance building. Judges chose six entries to submit for consideration for the statewide 2012-2013 challenge scheduled in April in Springfield.

Maintenance supervisors from across the district did the judging. They gauged each entry on whether it contributes to safety, provides a quality product or service, allows a job to be done quicker, allows an operation to be done cheaper and lends itself to be easily replicated at different locations.

"We had some tremendously good ideas," Jones said. "All of the entries met at least one of the criteria."

"The innovation of our employees never ceases to amaze me," said Assistant District Engineer Andy Mueller. "You can see the pride each 'inventor' has in their accomplishment and hear it in their voices when they explain it to the judges."

Here's a look at the top six finishers in the district competition:

- Preston Maintenance. Developed an implement that can attach to a skid-steer to remove temporary striping tabs from a newly resurfaced road. The tool allows crews to remove the tabs quickly without having someone walk down a road removing tabs by hand.
- Nevada Maintenance. Developed a PVC pipe system mounted to a salt spreader to apply calcium chloride to a load of salt. It keeps from having to climb onto a spreader or catwalk above a spreader to inject the chloride.
- Lamar Maintenance. Developed a break-away base for object markers so crews don't have to replace sign bases repeatedly when object markers are hit.
- Incident Response. Designed and built a trailer fully stocked with barricades and ready to hook up and roll. It makes for quicker and easier access when a road incident requires barricades be set up in a hurry.
- Butler Maintenance. Built a wheeled applicator to place tape for center-line stripes on new asphalt patches. That way, the center stripe is marked right away without immediately needing new painted stripes.

- Neosho Maintenance. Built an edge-rut box attachment for a salt spreader for easier repairs to roadway edges.

Paving Association Awards I-44 Resurfacing Work

by Angela Eden

A 2012 resurfacing project on I-44 between Joplin and Sarcoxie has been honored by the Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association.

Winning a second-place award for asphalt projects of greater than 50,000 tons was APAC-Missouri for a SuperPave project completed last summer in the Southwest District.

The award was presented at the MAPA annual conference in Columbia on Jan. 14-16.

District Construction and Materials Engineer Steve Campbell said APAC turned in consistent test results by keeping the asphalt mix within state specifications along the entire 16-mile long project.

The paving was done between Route 249 in Joplin and Route 37 near Sarcoxie.

The final product had "a good ride, it met the schedule and it met the budget," Campbell said.

Inspection was done by the Joplin Project Office.

MoDOT Safety Message:

**I'm Safe.
What I Use is Safe
Where I Am is Safe
My Customers are Safe
So We Go Home Safe**

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SE District Hosts Blood Drive

In honor of National Blood Donor Month, the Southeast District hosted a blood drive on Jan. 17 for the American Red Cross.

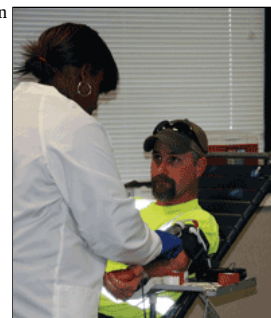
"Every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood—totaling approximately 44,000 blood donations needed every day," said Administrative Technician Lisa Cook. "We wanted to do our part to assist in meeting this overwhelming demand."

Through the blood drive, 45 productive units of blood were collected.

"Donating blood is giving someone the gift of life," she said. "Actually, one donation can help save the lives of up to three people."

Cook added that in addition to generous employees, several members of the public also joined to donate.

"It was great to have a full house of donors throughout the day, and I want to thank everyone for making the drive such a success," she said.



Maintenance Crew Leader Josh Wessel donates blood during the drive held on Jan. 17.

More Improvements Planned for Route 34

Public Hearing Held to Discuss Project in Cape Girardeau, Bollinger Counties



To view the meeting handout, please click the link above.

More improvements are planned for Southeast Missouri's Route 34 corridor. A public hearing was held in early January to discuss the upcoming project in Cape Girardeau and Bollinger Counties.

"Motorists can expect this project to be very similar to the other work currently underway along Route 34," said Transportation Project Designer Jeff Wachter. "The project will include resurfacing, adding shoulders and improving the side slopes."

He added the project spans over 15 miles, stretching from 1.5 miles east of Route 51 to Route 72 near Jackson.

A contract for the project is expected to be let in winter 2013, with construction in 2014. As work is underway, work zones will be flagger controlled.

For more information, please call Wachter at 573-472-5294, Project Manager Eric Krapf at 573-472-5261 or 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636). For more information about the upcoming project, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings/route34_jan13.htm.

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